We claim:

1. A digital checkbook comprised of:

a processor, executing a control program;

a memory device, operatively coupled to said processor and storing electronic routing information for banking funds;

a biometric scanner, operatively coupled to said processor for authenticating the identity of an individual;

a data input device operatively coupled to said processor capable of receiving input commands and input information;

a wireless data transmitter, operatively coupled to said processor, for sending input commands and input information to a remotely located base station.

2. The digital checkbook of claim 1 wherein said biometric scanner includes at least one of:

a finger print scanner;

a retinal image scanner.

3. The digital checkbook of claim 1 wherein said data input device is comprised of at least one of:

a keypad;

an alphanumeric keyboard;

a touch-sensitive pad;

a pointing device.

4. The digital checkbook of claim 1 wherein said wireless data transmitter is comprised of at least one of:

a Bluetooth protocol-compliant transmitter;

an infrared transmitter.

5. A digital checkbook comprised of:

a processor, executing a control program;

a memory device, operatively coupled to said processor and storing electronic routing information for banking funds;

a biometric scanner, operatively coupled to said processor for authenticating the identity of an individual;

a data input device operatively coupled to said processor capable of receiving input commands and input information;

a wireline data transmitter, operatively coupled to said processor, for sending input commands and input information to a banking institution via a wire line.

6. The digital checkbook of claim 5 wherein said biometric scanner includes at least one of:

a finger print scanner;

a retinal image scanner.

7. The digital checkbook of claim 5 wherein said data input device is comprised of at least one of:

a keypad;

an alphanumeric keyboard;

a touch-sensitive pad;

a pointing device.

8. The digital checkbook of claim 5 wherein said wireless data transmitter is comprised of at least one of:

a Bluetooth protocol-compliant transmitter;

an infrared transmitter.

9. A digital checkbook comprised of:

a processor, executing a control program;

a memory device;

a biometric scanner, operatively coupled to said processor for authenticating the identity of an individual;

a data input device operatively coupled to said processor and receiving therein at least one of:

negotiable instrument payee information;

electronic funds routing information;

a wireless data transmitter, operatively coupled to said processor, for sending input commands and input information to a remotely located base station.

10. The digital checkbook of claim 9 wherein said biometric scanner includes at least one of:

a finger print scanner;

a retinal image scanner.

11. The digital checkbook of claim 9 wherein said data input device is comprised of at least one of:

a keypad;

an alphanumeric keyboard;

a touch-sensitive pad;

a pointing device.

12. The digital checkbook of claim 9 wherein said wireless data transmitter is comprised of at least one of:

a Bluetooth protocol-compliant transmitter;

an infrared transmitter;

13. A method of electronically transferring funds from a payer to a payee comprised of the steps of:

receiving at a data terminal, the name of a payee;

locating electronic funds transfer data for said payee using the name of said payee;

formatting an electronic funds transfer message to a banking institution for said payee;

transmitting said electronic funds transfer message to said banking institution so as to cause an electronic funds transfer from said payer to said payee through said banking institution.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of locating electronic funds transfer data for said payee using the name of said payee includes the steps of:

indexing a data base of payees according to name;

retrieving from said data base, an electronic funds routing number according to the name of said payee;

formatting an electronic funds transfer message using said funds routing number.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of transmitting said electronic funds transfer message includes at least one of:

transmitting said message using a Bluetooth compliant radio system;

transmitting said message using an infrared signal;

transmitting said message using a cellular telephone radio network.

16. A method of electronically transferring funds from a payer to a payee comprised of the steps of:

receiving at a data terminal, at least one of:

the name of a payee;

electronic funds routing information for said payee;

formatting an electronic funds transfer message to a banking institution for said payee;

transmitting said electronic funds transfer message to said banking institution so as to cause an electronic funds transfer from said payer to said payee through said banking institution.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said step of locating electronic funds transfer data for said payee using the name of said payee includes the steps of:

indexing a data base of payees according to name;

retrieving from said data base, an electronic funds routing number according to the name of said payee;

formatting an electronic funds transfer message using said funds routing number.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein said step of transmitting said electronic funds transfer message includes at least one of:

transmitting said message using a Bluetooth compliant radio system;

transmitting said message using an infrared signal;

transmitting said message using a cellular telephone radio network.